

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings because they do not include reference signs 17, 30, 34, 60, and 328, which are mentioned in the specification, and because they include reference characters 40 and 42, which are not mentioned in the description. The Applicants have amended Figure 2 to show reference signs 17, 30, 34, and 60, as well as Figure 3A to show reference sign 328. Additionally the Applicants have amended paragraph [0032] of the originally filed application to include a description of reference characters 40 and 42. In light of this amendment, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove his objections to the drawings.

Specification

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the specification because of informalities. The Applicants have amended paragraph [0008] to change "grater" to "greater," as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants have amended paragraph [0020] to change "providing" to "provided," as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants have amended paragraph [0022] to change "useabilization" to "utilization," as suggested by the Examiner. In light of this amendment, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove his objections to the specification.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 2 and Figure 3A. The first sheet of drawings, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2. In Figure 2, previously omitted reference signs 17, 30, 34, and 60 have been added. The second sheet of drawings, which includes Figure 3A, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3A. In Figure 3A, previously omitted reference sign 328 has been added.

Attachment: Figure 2 Replacement Sheet
Figure 2 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
Figure 3A Replacement Sheet
Figure 3A Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Claim Objection Under 37 CFR 1.75

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 13-16 under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 2-5, respectively. The Applicants have canceled claim 14 and amended claims 13, 15, and 16. In light of this amendment, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove his objection of claims 13-16 under 37 CFR 1.75.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that "there is no proper antecedent for 'the reduced diameter' in line 2 of claim 4, as this limitation is first properly set forth in claim 2, yet claim 4 depends from claim 3, which depends from claim 1." The Applicants have amended claim 3 to depend from claim 2 instead of claim 1. In light of this amendment, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove his rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

On pages 3 - 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nakazeki et al (6,390,681). The Applicants respectfully traverse. "Under 35 U.S.C. § 102, anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a prior art reference"

Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Comm'n, 808 F.2d 1471, 1 USPQ2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 482 U.S. 909 (1987). **Nowhere** does the Nakazeki reference disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

The Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown where in '681 Nakazeki anticipates claims 1, 3, 11 and 12 and therefore has not met his burden for establishing anticipation. Nevertheless in an effort to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 and submit to the Examiner that Nakazeki does not teach or suggest the amended claim 1. For example, Nakazeki does not teach "a counterplate cup having a base defining one surface of a second bearing thrust and defining a gap therewith, and having upraised sides tightly fitted over a outer surface of the sleeve, and wherein a region of the side of the cup is fixed to an outer surface of the sleeve by adhesive or epoxy."

Similarly, the Applicants have amended claim 11 to include a similar new limitation as amended claim 1 and submit that Nakazeki does not teach or suggest the claimed invention of claims 11 and 12 either. Additionally the Applicants have cancelled claim 14 to reflect this change.

In light of this amendment, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider his rejection of claims 1, 11 and 12 and allow the claims. Additionally since claim 3 has now been made to depend from claim 2, which the Examiner has already indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and it has been, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove his rejection of claim 3 and allow claim 3 as well.

Claim Objections

On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claim 2 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The Applicants have amended claim 2 according to the Examiner's instructions. Therefore in light of this amendment claim 2 should be allowable and the Applicants request that the Examiner allow the claim.

On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner stated "claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The Applicants have amended claims 4 and 5 according to the Examiner's instructions. Therefore in light of this amendment claims 4 and 5 should be allowable and the Applicants request that the Examiner allow the claims.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks and amendments, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding these remarks or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite prosecution of the application.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 19-1036.** Please credit any
excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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(Assignee of Entire Interest)

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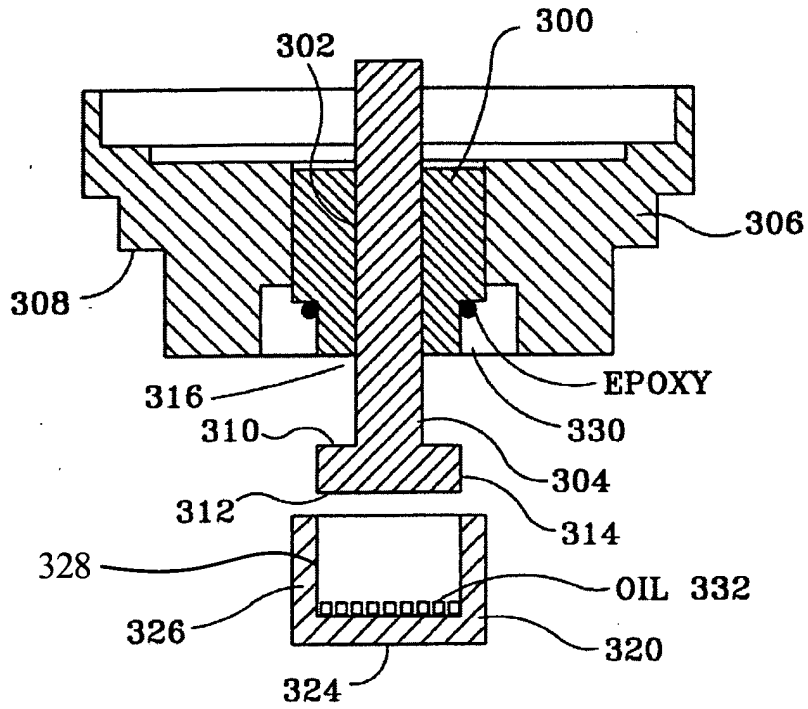


Figure 3A

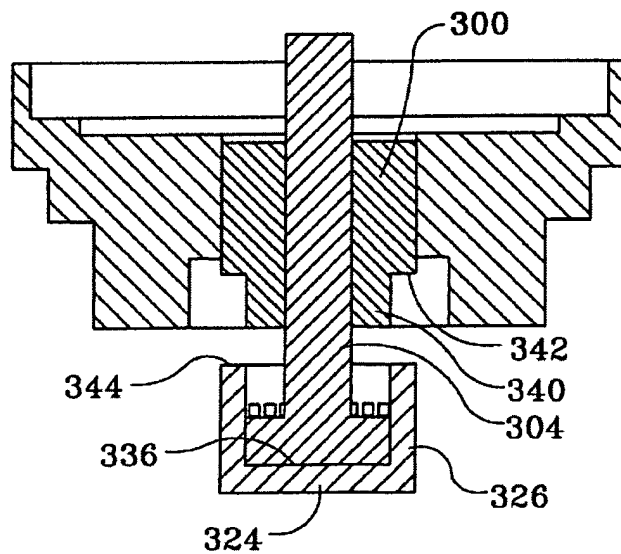


Figure 3B

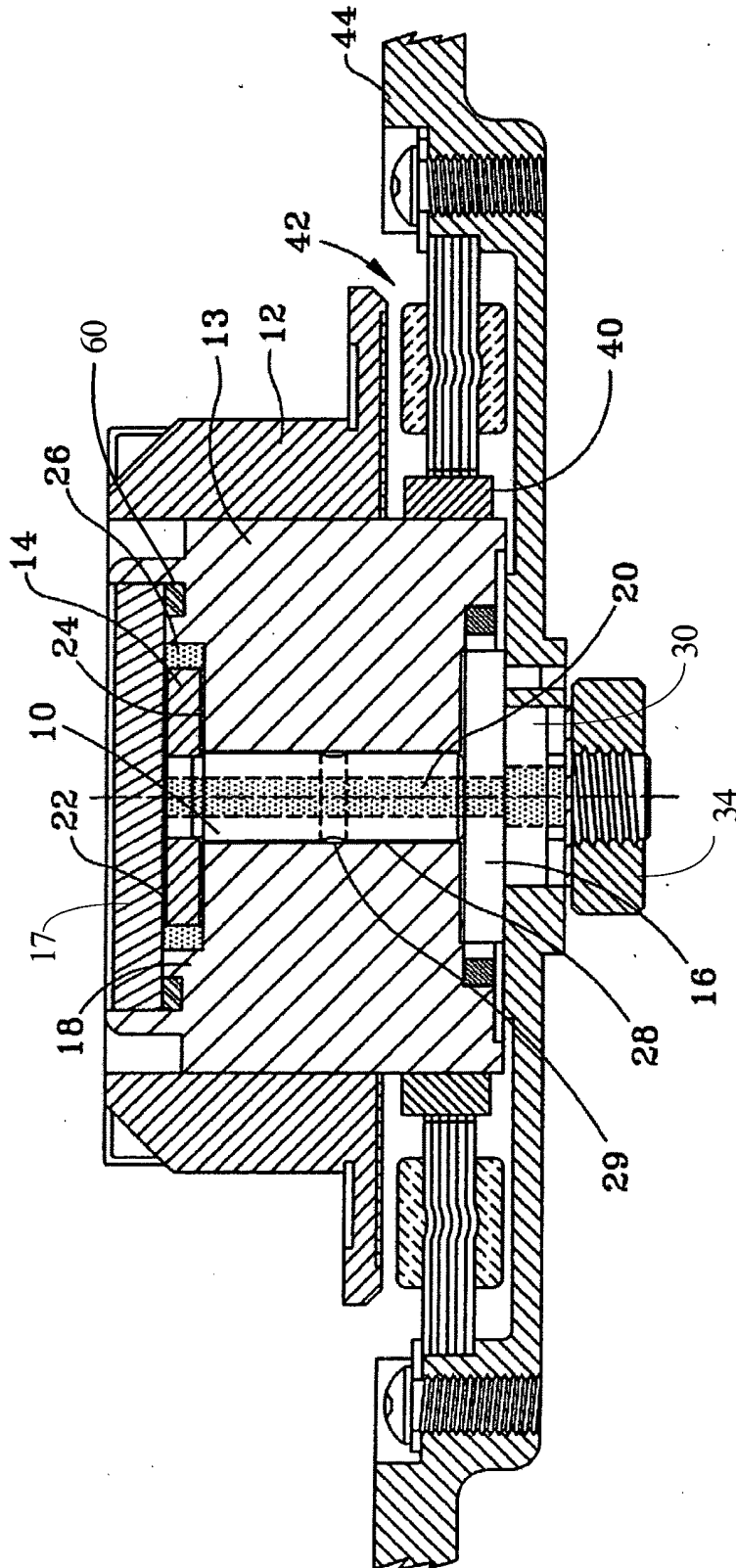


Figure 2
PRIOR ART